

Senate File 2268 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2268
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3155)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the state preschool program for
2 four-year-old children by establishing a preschool expansion
3 incentive, authorizing state aid for the incentive, and
4 addressing program costs.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256C.3, subsection 3, paragraph h, Code
2 2014, is amended to read as follows:

3 h. Provision for ensuring that children receiving care from
4 other child care arrangements can participate in the preschool
5 program with minimal disruption due to transportation and
6 movement from one site to another. The children participating
7 in the preschool program may be transported by the school
8 district to activities associated with the program along with
9 other children.

10 Sec. 2. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended
11 by adding the following new paragraph:

12 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. Development and implementation of a plan
13 for the school district's preschool program to have sufficient
14 capacity to operate without a waiting list for school budget
15 years beginning on or after July 1, 2017.

16 Sec. 3. Section 256C.4, subsection 1, paragraphs g and h,
17 Code 2014, are amended to read as follows:

18 g. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, ~~2011~~ 2014, and
19 each succeeding fiscal year, of the amount of preschool
20 foundation aid received by a school district for a fiscal year
21 in accordance with section 257.16, not more than ~~five~~ ten
22 percent may be used by the school district for administering
23 the district's approved local program. Outreach activities
24 and rent for facilities not owned by the school district are
25 permissive uses of the administrative funds.

26 h. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, ~~2012~~ 2014, and
27 each succeeding fiscal year, of the amount of preschool
28 foundation aid received by a school district for a fiscal year
29 in accordance with section 257.16, not less than ~~ninety-five~~
30 ninety percent of the per pupil amount shall be passed through
31 to a community-based provider for each pupil enrolled in
32 the district's approved local program. For the fiscal year
33 beginning July 1, ~~2011~~ 2014, and each succeeding fiscal year,
34 not more than ~~five~~ ten percent of the amount of preschool
35 foundation aid passed through to a community-based provider

1 may be used by the community-based provider for administrative
2 costs. The costs of outreach activities and rent for
3 facilities not owned by the school district are permissive
4 administrative costs.

5 Sec. 4. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
6 2014, is amended to read as follows:

7 b. The enrollment count of eligible students shall not
8 include a child who is included in the enrollment count
9 determined under section 257.6 or a child who is served by
10 ~~a an existing preschool~~ program already receiving state or
11 federal funds for the purpose of ~~the provision of providing~~
12 four-year-old preschool programming while the child is being
13 served by the existing program. ~~Such preschool programming~~
14 However, the enrollment count of eligible students may include
15 a child being served by an existing preschool program if
16 the preschool programming in the existing program has been
17 enhanced as a result of preschool program expansion incentive
18 state aid provided under section 256C.7. For the purposes
19 of this chapter an "existing preschool program" includes but
20 is not limited to shared visions and other child development
21 assistance programs provided under chapter 256A and section
22 279.51, special education programs provided under section
23 256B.9, school ready children grant programs and other programs
24 provided under chapter 256I, and federal head start programs
25 and the services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and
26 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

27 Sec. 5. Section 256C.5, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph
28 1, Code 2014, is amended to read as follows:

29 For the purposes of this ~~section and section 256C.4~~ chapter,
30 unless the context otherwise requires:

31 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 256C.7 Preschool program expansion
32 incentive.

33 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context
34 otherwise requires:

35 a. *"Base incentive enrollment"* means the average of the

1 actual enrollments of eligible students in the preschool
2 programming provided by a school district on October 1, 2011,
3 October 1, 2012, and October 1, 2013.

4 *b. "Incentive period"* means the budget years beginning July
5 1, 2015, July 1, 2016, and July 1, 2017.

6 *c. "Incentive enrollment"* means the amount by which the
7 actual enrollment of eligible students in the preschool
8 programming provided by a school district on October 1 of
9 the base year exceeds the school district's base incentive
10 enrollment.

11 *d. "Incentive state aid"* means the product of twenty percent
12 of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year
13 multiplied by the school district's incentive enrollment in the
14 base year.

15 2. *a.* A preschool program expansion incentive is
16 established in accordance with this section. In order to be
17 eligible for the incentive, a school district must develop and
18 implement a preschool program expansion plan, approved by the
19 department, to expand enrollment of eligible students in the
20 school district's preschool programming. In addition, the
21 school district shall work with existing preschool program
22 providers to expand hours and otherwise enhance the preschool
23 programming available to the children participating in the
24 programs. The plan's goal shall be that by the end of the
25 incentive period the district's preschool programming will
26 be available without a waiting list to each child wanting to
27 enroll in the programming.

28 *b.* The elements addressed in the preschool program expansion
29 plan shall include but are not limited to the following:

30 (1) How the school district will work in collaboration with
31 participating families, early care providers, and community
32 partners, as described in section 256C.3, subsection 3,
33 to provide the preschool programming in as convenient and
34 cost-effective a manner as possible for the families of the
35 four-year-old children who are eligible for the programming.

1 (2) A specification of the roles of the early care providers
2 and community partners in support of the expansion plan.

3 (3) A delineation of the specific steps for expanding hours
4 and otherwise enhancing the preschool programming available to
5 the children participating in the existing preschool programs
6 located in the school district.

7 (4) Identification of specific outcomes and progress
8 measures for the expansion plan.

9 (5) Detailed plans for contacting and soliciting enrollment
10 of eligible students, particularly from low-income families,
11 non-English speaking families, and families from ethnic and
12 racial groups underrepresented in the district's preschool
13 program enrollment.

14 3. The department of education shall specify other
15 requirements and required elements for preschool expansion
16 plans and for approval of plans by the department, including
17 but not limited to submission provisions, annual updates, and
18 documentation of collaboration efforts with and input from
19 participating families, early care providers, and community
20 partners.

21 4. During the incentive period, in addition to the
22 regular preschool foundation aid based on the preschool
23 budget enrollment, the school district implementing a
24 preschool expansion plan approved by the department shall
25 receive incentive state aid based on the district's incentive
26 enrollment. The incentive state aid shall be paid as part of
27 the state aid payments made to school districts in accordance
28 with section 257.16.

29 5. A school district shall utilize its incentive state aid
30 to defray increases in costs in connection with the school
31 district's preschool program expansion plan. Such costs shall
32 include but are not limited to renovation and other facility
33 costs connected with expansion, outreach, one-time expenses,
34 and other costs identified as eligible by the department.

35 Sec. 7. Section 257.16, Code 2014, is amended by adding the

1 following new subsection:

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. For the fiscal years in which the
3 preschool program expansion incentive applies in accordance
4 with section 256C.7, the appropriation made in subsection 1
5 shall include the amount necessary to pay incentive state aid
6 in accordance with section 256C.7. This subsection is repealed
7 on July 1, 2018.

8 Sec. 8. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
9 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
10 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
11 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
12 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
13 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
14 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
15 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
16 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
17 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
18 districts.

EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill relates to the statewide preschool program for
23 four-year-old children by establishing a preschool program
24 expansion incentive and authorizing state aid for the
25 incentive. The bill also addresses costs allowed under the
26 program.

27 Code section 256C.3, relating to preschool program
28 requirements, is amended to require each school district to
29 implement a plan for the school district's preschool program to
30 have sufficient capacity to operate without a waiting list for
31 school budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2017.

32 To be eligible for the preschool expansion incentive,
33 a school district must develop and implement a preschool
34 expansion plan, approved by the department, in order to expand
35 enrollment of eligible students in the school district's

1 preschool programming. Requirements for the plan are
2 provided in the bill, including how the school district will
3 collaborate with participating families, early care providers,
4 and community partners to expand the district's preschool
5 enrollment. The department of education is to specify other
6 requirements for the plan and for approval of plans by the
7 department.

8 Current law in Code section 256C.4 prohibits inclusion
9 in the preschool program of children already included in a
10 school's enrollment count for purposes of the school aid
11 foundation formula or children who are served by an existing
12 preschool program already receiving state or federal funds for
13 the purpose of providing four-year-old preschool programming
14 while the child is being served by the existing program. The
15 bill allows inclusion of children participating in an existing
16 program if the preschool programming in the existing program
17 has been enhanced as part of the expansion incentive.

18 The incentive program will operate for the three school
19 budget years beginning July 1, 2015, July 1, 2016, and July
20 1, 2017. For those three budget years, a school district is
21 eligible to receive incentive state aid for the increase in
22 the actual enrollment of eligible students in the preschool
23 programming provided by a school district in the immediately
24 preceding school year over the base incentive enrollment.
25 The base incentive enrollment is the average of the actual
26 enrollments of eligible students in the school district's
27 preschool programming on October 1, 2011, October 1, 2012,
28 and October 1, 2013. The amount of incentive state aid is
29 equal to 20 percent of the regular program state cost per pupil
30 multiplied by the enrollment increase.

31 The incentive state aid is required to be used to defray
32 increases in costs in connection with the school district's
33 preschool expansion plan. Such costs may include renovation
34 and other facility costs connected with expansion, outreach,
35 one-time expenses, and other costs identified as eligible by

1 the department.

2 The bill also addresses administration and other costs under
3 the preschool program in amendments to Code sections 256C.3 and
4 256C.4. Authorization is provided for a school district to
5 transport the children participating in the preschool program
6 along with other children. The allowable administrative costs
7 for school districts are increased from 5 to 10 percent.
8 Also, the costs of outreach activities and facility rent are
9 permitted as administrative costs.

10 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
11 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
12 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
13 district from state school foundation aid received by the
14 school district under section 257.16. The specification is
15 deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
16 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
17 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
18 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
19 mandates included in the bill.